

# VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)

**Title:** Financial Pathways VISTA

**Sponsoring Organization:** United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region

**Project Name:** United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region

**Project Number:** 20VSANY001

**Project Period:** 11/10/2019 - 01/02/2021

**Site Name (if applicable):**

**Focus Area(s)**

**Primary:** Capacity Building

**Secondary:**

## VISTA Assignment Objectives and Member Activities

**Goal of the Project:** The Financial Pathways VISTA will support and enhance the pilot programs of the Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative (ESPRI) program sites and further the work of the Financial Stability Project. They will expand the capacity of partner nonprofits devoted to creating pathways out of poverty with regards to housing, employment and reducing other barriers faced by struggling families. Their position will be focused on overall sustainability and community engagement.

### **Objective of the Assignment (Period of Performance: 3/15/2020-3/15/2021)**

The VISTA will oversee the continuation of the ESPRI capacity building work.

**Member Activity:** 1. Support will enhance the Fragile Economies Project (FEP) of Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative (ESPRI). 2. VISTA will be tasked with serving as the key staff liaison to the lead organizations of FEP. 3. They will elevate the program's reach in the local community. 4. Additionally the VISTA will serve to increase the governing capacity of the ESPRI Steering Committee.

### **Objective of the Assignment (Period of Performance: 3/15/2020-3/15/2021)**

The VISTA will serve as the key point of contact for the ESPRI Taskforce. They will convene the ESPRI Taskforce to keep established working groups on task while seeking coalition sustainability models.

**Member Activity:** 1. As the first point of contact for the ESPRI Taskforce they will manage strategic communication. 2. The VISTA will disseminate critical information at the request of partner organizations. 3. The VISTA will work with ESPRI staff to maintain the schedule of presenters that drive impact in the community to regularly share information with the ESPRI Taskforce stakeholders. 4. The VISTA will conduct a needs assessment of the Taskforce periodically to ensure that the ESPRI Taskforce is clearly aligned with the work of ESPRI. 5. The VISTA will invite new members to join the Taskforce as needed.

**Objective of the Assignment (Period of Performance: 3/15/2020-3/15/2021)**

The VISTA will engage the peer mentorship program and related community partners in developing crisis intervention methods to enhance supports for families living in poverty to lift them out of poverty and access long-term financial stability.

**Member Activity:** 1. The VISTA will develop relationships with companies and stakeholder to provide a pipeline of employers that residents can engage with for employment related barriers.2. The VISTA will create relationships with housing organizations and coalitions to ensure affordable and healthy housing is accessible to residents engaged in the peer mentorship program. 3. The VISTA will catalogue community resources available to families living in poverty and inform community stakeholders.

**Objective of the Assignment (Period of Performance: 3/15/2020-3/15/2021)**

The VISTA will drive the direction of the ESPRI community partnership strategy, ensuring it is sustainability-focused.

**Member Activity:** 1.They will make sure that our United Way has a seat at the table at all essential community coalition and convening opportunities.2.The VISTA will determine the level of importance of each external community coalition/ working group.3.The VISTA will prioritize representation at the engagement opportunities relating to key financial stability goals.

**Objective of the Assignment (Period of Performance: 3/15/2020-3/15/2021)**

The VISTA will add sustainability to ESPRI programming. They will work with Taskforce Stakeholders to develop resources that add capacity while empowering members to take on leadership roles.

**Member Activity:** 1.The VISTA will develop a sustainability strategy to support ESPRI.2.They will analyze past successes and set future achievable goals for community partners.3.The VISTA will identify additional resources and community leaders to create future success for the communities being served.4.The VISTA will lay the continued foundation of the ESPRI Taskforce.5.The VISTA will align community coalition goals with ESPRI as needed to aim the community stakeholders toward shared goals.